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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1C

SUBJECT New Evidence of Discord within the SED

INFO. [REDACTED]

26

DIST. 25X September 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN
25X1X

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Next Review Date: 2008

1. There has been some discord among leaders of the SED on the subject of Wilhelm Pieck's frequent appearances as speaker at public meetings and assemblies in the Berlin districts; on one such occasion he collapsed and was carried out unconscious. Ackermann stated that it is the duty of the Central Secretariat of the party to keep him from overstraining his health, to which Gniffke and Dahlem replied that Pieck had spoken at his own express desire. Persons acquainted with the trend of affairs in SED circles fear in that the radical wing of the SED, which is led by Ulbricht, would welcome an illness which might serve to prevent Pieck from attending the coming party convention. It was anticipated that the disagreement between these two factions of the party would come to the open at the convention, particularly on the question of the bloc policy; the left wing of the SED holds that the time is ripe for the exclusion of the bourgeois parties from all participation in Eastern Zone politics. This group further advocates that the Russian Zone join the eastern nations and the Soviet Union, abandoning the struggle for the unity of Germany, which now seems to be a lost cause. It demands a more definite offensive against the SPD and sharply criticizes the Berlin policy of the SED, which, it asserts, is too fluctuating.
2. An unusually controversial mood has prevailed at SED county conventions in the Russian Zone and at borough conventions in Berlin; even the Central Committee of the party is surprised at the discontent in the party ranks. At a convention in Reinickendorf serious trouble was barely avoided when an attempt was made to revise forty-three resolutions condemning the conspicuous behavior and mode of life of party leaders. Hostility to the SED, as the party responsible for existing conditions, is rapidly increasing in the Eastern Zone; and, since there is no hope for an improvement of these conditions because of the continued dismantlings and the poor harvest, SED leaders fear that their personal security may be threatened.
3. At the convention in Reinickendorf the new Sokolovsky order on denazification was also discussed. Several delegates proposed that the leftist groups resort to terroristic measures in order to combat the new growth of fascism and reaction. A resolution was passed at the convention in Prenzlauer Berg, providing for

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Document No. 002

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77-1163

Date: 11/6

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the maintenance of close connections with the basic units of the other antifascist parties, the SPD, the LDP, and the CDU, in the fight against Nazism.

4. The Central Secretariat of the SED has been warned by the SMA that insufficient progress is being made in the western zones and that every means must be employed to recruit followers and to obtain legalization of the party in those parts of Germany. Ulbricht's trip to Frankfurt-am-Main was made in connection with this. At the moment the main subjects of SED interest in the western zones are the crisis between the SPD and the CDU in Bavaria and the Ruhr conference. One of the editors of Neues Deutschland, Klaus Huhn, was sent to the Ruhr area as a special reporter in order to accompany the Washington conference with corresponding articles.

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